



The LYON, the LEOPARD,  
and the BADGERS.

A

F A B L E.

WE learn that in the Times of old,  
(The Thing we by Tradition hold)  
The Birds, the Beasts, and eke the Fishes,  
Had Governments fram'd to their Wishes,  
By all-wise Providence protected,  
Each State was by good Laws directed;  
And ev'ry Power was in Condition  
To stop the Progress of Ambition.  
(Tho' in those Times that wasting Passion  
Was not indeed so much in Fashion)  
If one the other's Rights invaded,  
Straight by his Neighbour he was aided,

A 2

For

For 'twas agreed by joint Alliance  
 To punish those who in Defiance  
 Of Equity's most sacred Laws,  
 Presumed to hurt the Common Cause.  
 However 'ere they came to Blows  
 An Umpire mutually they chose,  
 Before whom each Pretension stated,  
 With Candour freely was debated,  
 And to this salutary End,  
 Each Power Ambassadors did send,  
 Where Justice had the sole Direction,  
 No partial Favour or Affection,  
 No dastard Fear or base Abjection.  
 Thus long amongst the bestial Train,  
 Peace held her mild and gentle Reign;  
 'Till Luxury the Mind corrupted,  
 And this blest Quiet interrupted;  
 Then some from Virtue basely swerv'd,  
 Whilst others all its Force preserv'd.

The LYON long for Justice famed,  
 Pre-eminence with Reason claim'd;  
 But still with all his Pow'r and Might  
 Was never known to injure Right.

His



His Breast by sacred Honour fired,  
 By Virtue guided, Truth inspired,  
 A Stranger to ignoble Arts,  
 He reign'd within his Subjects Hearts,  
 And ev'ry Day's Example prov'd  
 How much the one the other lov'd.  
 Their Int'rests were his only Care,  
 He ruled by Equity not Fear.  
 Freedom, in his Dominions nourish'd,  
 With ev'ry other Blessing flourish'd,  
 And lovely LIBERTY did smile  
 With conscious Pleasure in his ISLE.

Let us now view the LEOPARD's Realm,  
 And see who there was at the Helm.  
 With Pride and Vanity besotted,  
 Behold a Monarch sleek and spotted,  
 Surrounded by a motley Crowd  
 Of fawning Courtiers light and loud.  
 Virtue once visited his Court,  
 But ill receiv'd, or made a Sport,  
 She hastily his Councils quitted,  
 Since when the LEOPARD ne'er cou'd hit it,  
 But

But on each frivolous Pretence,  
 Quarrels with ev'ry neighb'ring Prince.  
 For Virtue piqued had in Resentment  
 Resolv'd to strip him of Contentment,  
 And as she fled had left behind  
 A Train of Ills of various Kind.  
 Now dire Ambition by long Strides  
 Stalks in and Equity derides.  
 Finances wasted by Profusion  
 Now throw the State into Confusion.  
 Now heavy Taxes on Provisions  
 Give rise to Murm'ring and Divisions.  
 And scarce a Beast but does complain,  
 Of this unnatural LEOPARD'S Reign.  
 Whilst he with a few paltry Slaves,  
 Of grand and mighty Conquests raves.

'Twill now be Time to turn our Eye  
 To those two Monarchs joint Ally.  
 The BADGER, long their peaceful Neighbour,  
 Was frugal, slow and given to Labour.  
 Trade was the Genius of his Nation,  
 Their sole Amusement Occupation.  
 The Mind was, like the Climate, chill'd,  
 Nor with one warm Idea fill'd.

Chimerical



Chimerical the Love of Fame!  
 From Fame no Riches ever came.  
 No social Pleasure here had Charms,  
 No Love but that of Money warms.

With the two Pow'rs **BADGE** had Connection;  
 One gave him Smiles — t'other Protection.  
 The **LYON**, like a tender Shepherd,  
 Had oft-times fav'd him from the **LEOPARD**,  
 For tho' he smiled he was deceitful,  
 Nor ever to an Ally grateful.  
 His vast Dominions lay so near,  
 The **BADGERS** liv'd in constant Fear.  
 Nor cou'd they fail to stand in Awe,  
 Where Force not Reason gave them Law.  
 The **LEOPARD** made this State his Cully,  
 So thought he might the **LYON** bully.

It happen'd each had Lands exotic,  
 The **LYONS** pleas'd this Prince despotic.  
 He claims a Right from Reasons odious  
 To all but him — They lay commodious.  
 So 'twas resolv'd to dispossess  
 By Force, by Fraud, or by Address,

The

The LYONS of the Settlement  
 They had upon the Continent.  
 Tho' solemnly at a Convention,  
 Of each the just and fair Pretension,  
 Was settled by Plen'potentiaries,  
 All which the LEOPARD calls Vagaries,  
 The Fruits of their distemper'd Brains,  
 And of the Treaty now complains.

Thus Reason vainly offers Aid,  
 Where Passion and Self-interest plead,  
 The Prince whom false Ambition guides,  
 In Force and Cunning still confides,  
 And each alternate substitutes,  
 As either best his Purpose suits.  
 The LEOPARD thus by slow Approaches,  
 Upon the LYON's Right incroaches.  
 Unjustly tries his Bounds t'extend,  
 Still he's the LYON's faithful Friend :  
 For LEOPARDS ever are polite,  
 Even when they strip you of your Right.  
 And if they plunder your Possessions,  
 They pay you with genteel Expressions.  
 However, with the LYON Nation,  
 This Coin has little Circulation.

Injustice



**B**

# Diffolv'd

Diffolv'd each sacred solemn Tye,  
They Justice openly deny.

Tho' Peace the gen'rous LYON charm'd,  
By War he never was alarm'd.  
Prepared to vindicate his Right,  
He still kept Justice in his Sight.  
But Lenity at length gives Place  
To Vengeance 'gainst a faithless Race.

As Rivers swell'd by constant Rains  
Rise and o'erflow the neigh'bring Plains,  
Or when oppos'd their gentle Course,  
Break out with a redoubled Force:  
The LYON thus, who Mildness try'd,  
With Justice ever on his Side,  
Provok'd at last with Fury glows,  
And falls like Light'ning on his Foes.

The LEOPARD's Arts begin to fail,  
Nor Fraud nor Force can long prevail:  
Their Caravans do ev'ry Day,  
To the brave LYON's fall a Prey.  
The Monarch LEOPARD storms and blusters,  
His hostile Forces now he musters;

Frets,



Frets, fumes, and threatens to invade,  
 Already thinks the Conquest made ;  
 And in his heated Fancy pinions  
 The LYON in his own Dominions.  
 How vain are all these Rodmontado's !  
 But LEOPARDS ever lov'd Bravado's,  
 How idle thus these Arts to try on  
 The just but yet intrepid LYON !  
 Who judg'd too well to be beguil'd,  
 And only at this Vap'ring smil'd.

Thus he who in the steady Course  
 Of Virtue lives, feels no Remorse ;  
 Is calm when threat'ning Dangers near,  
 For conscious Virtue knows not Fear.

The LYON, however, thought it wise  
 To be prepared against Surprise.  
 He knew of old the LEOPARD's Lure,  
 So takes Precautions to secure,  
 Upon this critical Occasion,  
 His Realms from Danger of Invasion,  
 And to the BADGERS now applies,  
 (His old and natural Allies)

B 2

Their

Their ancient Treaties to fulfill,  
 Nor doubts their Power, and less their Will:  
 For as they were by Treaty bound,  
 Whenever that the LYON'S Ground  
 Was threaten'd, tho' by Danger distant,  
 As an Ally to be Assistant;  
 He ne'er suspected an Objection,  
 So gave his Minister Direction,  
 (For Royal Beasts no Forms pass'd o'er,  
 But each abroad had his Ambassador)  
 His Situation to expose,  
 The Preparations of his Foes,  
 Their fiery Threats to invade his Land,  
 The Succours therefore to demand.

The LYON'S Maxims in his State  
 Were prudent, wise, and delicate:  
 He ne'er made Choice of a Minister  
 Of Genius slow, or Turn sinister.  
 The one he to the BADGERS sent,  
 Was a distinguish'd Compliment.  
 As Justice, Honour, ev'ry Merit,  
 From his great Site he did inherit;  
 United Virtues here innate,  
 Had form'd a Character complete.

This



This Minister by a Memorial  
Mild and genteel, not dictatorial,  
Desires the BADGERS to their Friend  
Wou'd now the promis'd Succours send.

The Form of BADGER Government  
Requires unanimous Consent ;  
And such is this their Constitution,  
That each important Resolution,  
Before agreed to by the State,  
Must undergo a slow Debate,  
Where any single Voice dissenting,  
Marrs, tho' the others are consenting.  
They answer'd then, they must revolve  
The Matter, ere they cou'd resolve.

Whilst thus the BADGERS were debating,  
And with Deliberation treating,  
The artful LEOPARD spreads his Toils,  
And strange tho' true the LYON foils.  
The LYON's Minister he fear'd,  
So much he of his Genius heard.  
His own he doubts, and dreads the Sequel  
From Negotiators so unequal.

So names another in Conjunction,  
 To fill the Ministerial Function.  
 He sends a blust'ring LEOPARD *Grison*,  
 Of Nature fierce as ancient *Frison*.  
 In Casuistry a nice Dissector,  
 Could warp an Argument — could hector;  
 Could turn and change to ev'ry Shape,  
 Now act the LYON — now the Ape.  
 Submit to ev'ry shameful Task  
 The Monarch LEOPARD pleas'd to ask.

He labours to convince the BADGER,  
 That his great Master never had Share  
 In any single Usurpation,  
 Complain'd of by the LYON Nation.  
 The Thing was difficult 'tis true;  
 But what can't LEOPARD Genius do?  
 He artfully describes the Bounds,  
 Of all his Royal Master's Grounds.  
 Shews that the Lands the LYON claim'd,  
 Were in the LEOPARD's Land-chart named  
 Or if they were not — were intended;  
 Thus Right and Wrong he nicely blended.  
 For with the able Politician  
 He was a thorough-paced Logician.

He



He added, that it would appear  
Upon Enquiry plain and clear,  
The LYON first had broke the Peace,  
And thus attempts to prove the Case.

To You, O mighty BADGER Nation,  
Ever renown'd for Penetration,  
In all your Counsels flow and sure,  
And in unbiass'd Judgment pure;  
To You I bring my Master's Cause,  
Persuaded of your just Applause.

Know then, there are two Kinds of Right;  
One flows from *Justice* — one from *Might*.  
This granted — consequent the Sense is,  
The latter is the Right of Princes,  
For Might alone is in their Hands,  
By Might my Royal Lord commands.  
The Adage here I need not mention,  
Whence he deduces his Pretension,  
You certainly have heard the Story all,  
How *Might* and *Power*, Time immemorial,  
Of Right have ever had the *Pas*,  
Prescription then has Force of Law.

This

This Principle my Master guides,  
 In this the LEOPARD King confides.  
 And where to Force he adds Address,  
 It renders not his Right the less,  
 For this is only *Might* refined ;  
*That* Strength of Body, *This* of Mind.  
 Why loudly to the bestial Train  
 Shou'd then the LYON thus complain ?  
 Does he expect we'll make Concessions,  
 Or render him his late Possessions ?  
 Why in this Manner obsolete,  
 Does he pretend with us to treat ?  
 Why on our Systems thus infringe,  
 Our long adopted Plans unhinge ?  
 Know then—not to detain you longer,  
 Our Right is this—we are the stronger.

The LYON's Minister now rose  
 The LEOPARD's Conduct to expose.  
 By sacred Truth's Direction aided,  
 With Force and Energy he pleaded.  
 He gave to *Justice* every Charm,  
 The BADGERS Hearts begin to warm.  
 They find the LYON has been abused,  
 Think Succours cannot be refused.

The



The LEOPARD's Envoy sees with Pain,  
 The LYON's Minister thus gain  
 Upon the BADGERS then assembled,  
 And for the fatal Issue trembled.  
 However, LEOPARDS are too fond  
 Of their own Genius, to despond ;  
 And ever fertile in Inventions,  
 Find Means to second their Pretensions.

First to the *State* he sued for Favour,  
 Was pliant 'till he found them waver.  
 Then changing his Appearance humble,  
 Gnashes his Teeth, begins to grumble :  
 By quick Transition loudly hectors ;  
 The timid BADGERS look like Spectres,  
 Already think their State undone,  
 And by the LEOPARDS over-run :  
 For thus, like Optick Glasses, Fear  
 Brings ev'ry distant Object near.  
 The BADGERS tremble for their Lives,  
 Next for their Money—then their Wives.  
 For Beasts like Men feel those Affections  
 Which rise from Family Connections.

C

Each

Each fear'd a Mistress or a Daughter  
 Might like a Lamb be led to Slaughter;  
 Or in the forced Embraces hamper'd,  
 Of lustful LEOPARDS proud and pamper'd.  
 Thus, Resolution meanly ply'd,  
 And friendly Succours were deny'd.  
 They pleaded Ruin at their Door,  
 And added, that the *State* was poor,  
 So with their Int'rest inconsistent,  
 To be in any wise assistant.

However it was long suspected  
 They with the LEOPARD were connected.  
 'Twas plain the Progress he had made,  
 His Maxims in their Counsels sway'd.  
 So much his Principles they favour'd,  
 So much his Politicks were favour'd,  
 That had not a young LYON stop'd them,  
 They all were ready to adopt them.  
 This LYON their late General's Heir,  
 Had in their Councils still a Share.  
 His Sire, tho' rais'd against their Will,  
 Did his high Charge with Honour fill.  
 By BADGERS free he was promoted,  
 So to their Int'rest was devoted.

Their



Their glorious Liberties he guarded,  
Then Merit only was rewarded.  
But Death, in an ill fated Hour,  
Untimely cropp'd this blooming Flower,  
Or BADGER State had been rever'd,  
And even by the LEOPARD fear'd.

Freedom with them now lost her Charms,  
They fall into the LEOPARD's Arms.  
In ev'ry System now the State  
Their fav'rite LEOPARD imitate :  
His Manners Admiration raised,  
His spotted Skin the BADGERS pleased.  
His Language now had theirs embellish'd,  
And ev'ry LEOPARD Air was relish'd.

Thus in a sultry Summer Day,  
The Traveller oft quits his Way,  
And seeks the cool refreshing Shade,  
Or wanders in the flowery Mead :  
The speckled Snake there basking lies,  
He views him first with pleas'd Surprise,  
Nor dreads he aught, by Beauty won,  
Caresses him, and is undone.

The LYON now no more relies  
 Upon the BADGERS his Allies.  
 Resolves alone to vindicate  
 The injur'd Honour of his *State*.  
 His gen'rous Breast with Ardour glows,  
 To punish his audacious Foes.  
 True Glory animates his Bands,  
 And Justice strengthens all their Hands.  
 His Forces headed by his Son,  
 Already think the Conquest won.  
 The LEOPARD's Crimes for Vengeance call,  
 Whole Armies now before him fall.  
 The LYONS still the Scourge apply,  
 The boasting LEOPARDS, forced to fly,  
 Now in Confusion quit the Field,  
 And to the LYON Vict'ry yield.  
 Their Usurpations now restore,  
 And silently their Fate deplore.  
 The LYON, whom Justice only fires,  
 Now from the Enemy retires ;  
 He false Ambition never knew,  
 And scorn'd his Conquests to pursue.  
 Nor held he Right by forced Concessions,  
 So left the LEOPARD his Possessions.

The



The Mind with Honour in its View,  
And to her Counsels ever true,  
For whom no dazzling Pomp has Charms,  
Whom Love of Virtue only warms,  
Can calmly look with Fortitude,  
At ev'ry quick Vicissitude :  
Is not elated by Success,  
And stands unmov'd 'midst deep Distress.  
But these unshaken Joys are rare,  
And fell not to the LEOPARD'S Share.  
He views, with Vengeance still replete,  
And sullen Grief, his late Defeat.  
Now foams with Wrath, now rolls his Eye,  
The trembling LEOPARDS distant fly.  
By Grief and Rage alternate torn,  
He's left alone his Fate to mourn.

*Pride* in Distress is ever active,  
Gives false Ambition Charms attractive.  
Against our Reason both conspire,  
And a resilient Force acquire.  
These the proud LEOPARD occupy,  
And ever peaceful Ease deny.

Some

Some new Design he now revolves,  
 Ambition prompts, and Pride resolves.  
 More Cruel grown from his Defeat,  
 He bellows 'gainst the BADGER State.  
 But how! The pliant BADGER Nation,  
 The Object of his Indignation!  
 Who had in ev'ry Thing comply'd,  
 Were ever of the LEOPARD's Side,  
 Why sudden thus become their Foe?  
 Why 'gainst them does his Vengeance glow?  
 Know then the LEOPARD was suspicious,  
 Sure Mark of Inclination vicious!  
 He saw the BADGERS were not steady,  
 Nor to fulfil their Treaties ready.  
 Reflects how they the LYON us'd,  
 And Faith and Friendship had abus'd.  
 Concludes they'l be no longer Friends,  
 Than while it to their Int'rest tends.  
 Fears as the LYON has gain'd his Cause,  
 He to the BADGERS might give Laws.  
 Therefore resolves t'incorporate  
 The BADGER with the LEOPARD State.  
 No sooner form'd the Resolution,  
 Than carried into Execution.

Ambition



Ambition never wants Pretences,  
He now trumps up some old Offences.  
His scatter'd Forces straight he rallies,  
And on the peaceful BADGERS fallies :  
Their Lands he quickly over-run,  
Too soon they found they were undone.  
In vain they try to make Resistance,  
Where now alas expect Assistance !  
They knew they by their late Behaviour,  
Had forfeited the LYON's Favour :  
They saw besides, Self-preservation  
Required his Troops within his Nation.

But had they first the LYON join'd,  
And with his Forces theirs combin'd,  
They'd hemm'd the LEOPARD in his Grounds,  
And kept Ambition in due Bounds.

They saw this, but alas too late !  
To save the Honour of their *State*.

F I N I S.